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Review: BANK, "Press Release NY"
@ Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery
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Those who believe that the London scene consists of nothing but over hyped art stars should go see "Press Release." The first New York showing by the London collaborative BANK, it might as well be subtitled "Silliness as Welcome Antidote," The group, whose current members are John Russell, Simon Bedwell and Millie Thompson, is probably best known for its satirical zine which sends up the London art world in the style of a London tabloid. A few months ago, BANK began its first corrective action in New York by marking up press releases, term-paper style, and faxing them back to the gallery that sent them. Twenty such examples are on display here.

Some of the critiques are of the schoolmarmish variety: "Commas missing" directed at Marianne Boesky); "it is debatable whether a painting can be both 'gestural' and 'abstract'" (directed at Matthew Marks). Most simply giving satisfying voice to the kind of snarky commentary (crap, pretentious, meaningless) that usually runs inside one's head when skimming such galley puffery.

Because BANK doesn't know New York the satire isn't always dead on; the comments sometimes come off as ignorant, rather than knowingly bitchy. Still there are many gems. Gavin Brown's recent Rikrit Tiravanija release mentions "curry." to which BANK innocently queries, "He's not still on that old chess-nut, surely?" And when Sonnabend trumpets that they're "pleased to announce a show of new painting's; by Ashley Bickerton," BANK snidely interpolates "I'll bet you are."

Adding to the hilarity, the releases are reprinted on handmade rice paper and decorated with silly watercolours of things like kittens and country landscape. For one Andrea Rosen release which reproduced a review by powerful Times critic Roberta Smith, BANK painted a bad AbEx painting floating above a sea of talking heads. Sean Kelly's release for James Casebere's "Self-Constructed Realities" is decorated with a gondola scene – an appropriate reference to the Venice Biennale, last summer's art-world playground.

The show also includes two blown-up front pages from BANK's inimitable tabloid. One bears the screaming headline GALLERIES 'ALL OWNED BY RICH PEOPLE' SHOCK. Funny that's exactly what I think at the start of each new season.